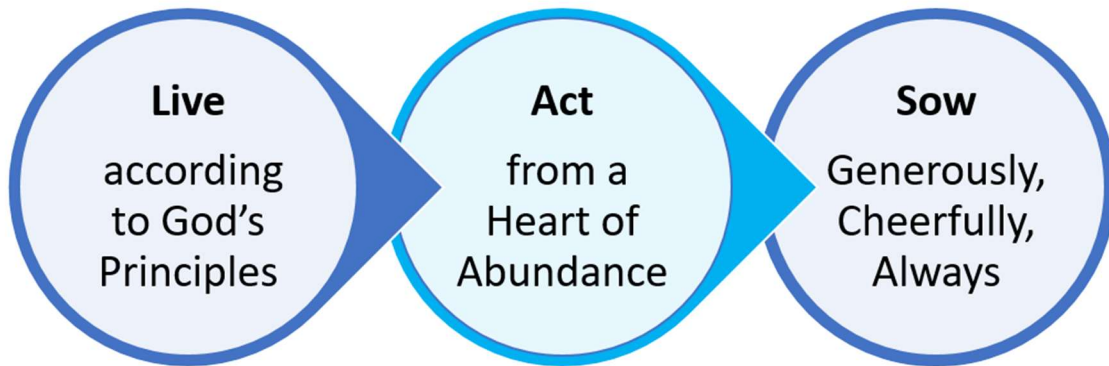


Harder and Harder Surrenders



“Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.”

The Apostle Paul | Romans 8:5-6 (NLT)

Well into a cross country flight, my mind uneasy, the light of the Spirit unexpectedly pierced. “What dominates your thinking?” Sensing exposure, I took a breath, then imagined a pie chart dividing my Kingdom, Self, and Worldly thoughts...

“How did this happen!”

Despite solid spiritual disciplines and a tight rein on worldly media, my Kingdom portion had dwindled. My Self wedge dominated. Health worries were stealing Intimacy with God; focus from my Mission.

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:8)

Scarcely noticed, my relentless enemy, the “Boxer,” had landed a blow several years ago. From here, his small jabs reopened an old cut. This preferred strategy of his steered me toward spiritual darkness and Kingdom ineffectiveness...

“God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.” The Apostle John (1 John 1:5-6)

The Spirit illuminated a crisis; my sinful nature was gaining control. In over my head I cried, “Lord help!” What else could I do?

The thing is, I’d surrendered my health to God years ago!

Reflect: What dominates my thinking right now?

The Boxer understands deeply rooted wounds, despite us having

previously surrendered them, never quite go away. Wanting to squelch us, he repeatedly leverages them... Turns out, so does God! Fresh surrenders, each harder than the prior one, drive:

- ✓ Greater Oneness with God
- ✓ Purification of belief in God's core truth
- ✓ Hotter testimony

Wanting this desperately, I prepared for a deeper, harder surrender...

Consider: Harder and harder surrenders lead to richer life, peace... and more Kingdom fruit.

I reflected on the agonizing surrenders surrounding perhaps my deepest wound, which inflicted weighty financial fear. Multiple cycles, each harder than the prior one, brought me to follow God's financial principles. Pivotal was letting God transform my heart into one acting from abundance like his does... am I not his heir?

"So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs." The Apostle Paul (Romans 8:15-17)

No longer am I ruled by fear and scarcity; instead, I generously and cheerfully sow from a heart of financial abundance.

I felt God leading me down this same path, this time compelling harder surrenders concerning my health, prompting me to ask:

- Will I live according to God's prescribed principles for health (do not worry, be cheerful, treat my body as a temple, etc.)?
- Will I act from a heart of health abundance (embracing eternal life)?
- Will I sow my life (time, giftings, love...) generously, cheerfully, always?

I'm walking the path toward these now, fully anticipating harder points of surrender... I wonder, could focusing on these three steps lay the path of healing for all types of wounds? Yours?

*Imagine: **Harder and harder surrenders advancing my Mission... yielding more Kingdom fruit***

Your Mission is advanced by the passion trapped within your wound, released only through surrendering. Lacking this, it will lay dormant and your emotions will move you away from God... fruitless at best.

"Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said. But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. (Genesis 50:18-20)

What might Joseph had felt while sitting in a pit left for dead? Or later when forgotten in prison? Deeply scarred, each time a harder surrender moved him closer to God who blessed him. But then, with his brothers cowering before him, he faced his hardest... Surrender or take revenge? The passion released from his hardest surrender saved many lives.

Mobilize your Mission! Walk the path of...

Harder and Harder Surrenders

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What deep wound do my dominate thoughts point to?
- Which of God's principles address my wound? How will I align my life with them?
- What does God's abundant heart say? Surrender what keeps me from receiving this heart.
- What does my abundant heart lead me to sow, cheerfully, always?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

My abundant heart powers my Mission

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

The Apostle Paul | 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)



Don't know your Mission?

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